Explosion of Nitrogen Tank at the Okhla Industrial Area

1016. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the tragic deaths of some workers when a nitrogen tank exploded recently at a private gas firm's premises in the Okhla Industrial Estate: and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the incident and what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was an explosion in the Hydrogen Gas Plant of M|s. Rajdhani Gases Private Limited, Okhla Industrial Area, Delhi on 6th October, 1988. As a result of the accident, three persons lost their lives besides damage caused to the hydrogen gas holder and hydrogen gas cyclinder filling shed. Based on the enquiries conducted by the Officers of the Chief Controller of Explosives, Nagpur, the licences granted to the company for filling and storage of hydrogen gas have been suspended and a show cause notice for cancellation of the licences has been issued.

Recommendation of the Delhi Urban Art Commission

1017. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the new norms laid down by Government in respect of the construction of high rise buildings in Delhi are within the framework of the Delhi Master Plan and the various recommendations made by the Delhi Urban Art Commission in this regard; and

(b) the resultant speculation in the land prices in the city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) 1419 RS—6.

Guidelines about regulating high rise construction in Delhi have been recently issued by the Government after considering various points of view. These guidelines take into account the historical character of the city as well as its changing needs, and optimum utilisation of valuable urban land consistent with the needs of containing congestion and pollution and related matters. The norms of ground coverage, FAR, height, density and manner of providing parking laid down in the guidelines are at variance with the regulations of Delhi Master Plan. The relevant provisions of the Master Plan will need to be amended in accordance with the guidelines and DDA have been asked to take necessary action after inviting public objections and suggestions.

(b) It is not possible to say at this stage how the land prices will be affected by the adoption of the new guidelines.

Prices of imported newspaper

1018. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the percentage of increase in the prices of imported newsprint and the standard and glazed newsprint from the buffer stock of STC since the beginning of 1988, the circumstances under which the prices of newsprint had to be raised and its overall impact on the newpaper industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): A statement giving details of increase in prices of imported newsprint is enclosed. (*See* below).

The increase is due to overall increase in the international market price of newsprint, adverse fluctuations in the rupee-dollar rate and increase in freight rate.

No assessment has been made about the impact of increase of prices of imported newsprint on the newspaper industry.